

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00651 271449Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 VO-03 SCA-01
INSE-00 SAJ-01 /097 W
-----280118Z 068170 /63

R 271346Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4611
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0651

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IS, PLO
SUBJECT: ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE COUNCIL: PELED'S VIEWS

REF: TEL AVIV 0455 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFF MET JANUARY 27 WITH MATTI PELED, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE. THE MOST INTERESTING POINTS PELED MADE IN AN HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION WERE THAT (A) ABU MAZIN IS BELIEVED BY PELED TO BE THE DRIVING FORCE WITHIN THE PLO WHO SUPPORTS A SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL; AND (B) THE PLO ARE STILL HOPING THAT SABRI JIRYIS WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

2. PELED DESCRIBED ABU MAZIN AS "THE SAPIR OF THE PLO" (THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00651 271449Z

REFERENCE IS TO PINCHAS SAPIR, THE DECEASED ISRAELI EX-MINISTER OF FINANCE AND "KINGMAKER" IN ISRAEL'S RULING LABOR PARTY). NEITHER PELED NOR OTHER PEACE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE MET ABU MAZIN, BUT THEY ARE QUITE SURE THAT HE IS BEHIND THE PLO'S DECISION TO HOLD MEETINGS WITH ISRAELIS AND THAT THIS DECISION IS AN ATTEMPT TO SIGNAL MOVEMENT AWAY FROM A TOTALLY UNCOMPROMISING STANCE TOWARD ISRAEL.

IN WHAT SOUNDED LIKE A DESCRIPTION OF A MUTUAL DECISION BY ABU MAZIN AND ARAFAT TO MEET WITH ISRAELIS, PELED OBSERVED THAT "ABU MAZIN OF COURSE HAS THE BACKING OF ARAFAT IN THIS, BUT ARAFAT WOULD NOT APPROVE UNLESS IT WERE ABU MAZIN."

3. KADDOUMI IS OPPOSED BOTH TO THIS TREND TOWARDS MODERATION AND TO ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING WITH THE U.S., PELED SAID. IN THIS CONNECTION IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT SABRI JIRYIS WAS SELECTED TO HEAD THE PLO INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON AFTER ARAFAT HAD SQUELCHED OBJECTIONS BY KADDOUMI. JIRYIS IS NOT ONE OF KADDOUMI'S MEN, WAS EDUCATED AS A LAWYER IN ISRAEL, AND IS THE MOST SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE WASHINGTON JOB. HE WAS INVOLVED FROM THE START IN THE TREND TOWARD MODERATION WITHIN THE PLO, PELED NOTED, REFERRING TO A SERIES OF LENGTHY ARTICLES WRITTEN BY JIRYIS IN AN NAHAR IN MAY 1975 WHICH "MARKED THE BEGINNING OF PLO MODERATION AND APPEARED IN BEIRUT AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS UNFASHIONABLE TO ADVISE MODERATION." THE PLO STILL HOPES THAT JIRYIS WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ANOTHER VISA TO THE U.S., AND WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN THE INFORMATION OFFICE. IF HE DOES SO, PELED HOPES THAT HE AND JIRYIS MIGHT SHARE A PLATFORM IN THE U.S., "WHICH WOULD BE MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE YET DONE."

4. THE PLO IS READY TO GO TO GENEVA, PELED QUOTED ISAM SARTAWI AS SAYING, IN ORDER TO COMPROMISE WITH ZIONIST ISRAEL. PLO HARDLINERS LIKE KADDOUMI ARE OPPOSED TO THE "ZIONIST" FORMULATION, BUT THE MAJORITY NOW REALIZE THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00651 271449Z

TALKING TO "ISRAEL" WITHOUT "ZIONISM" IS AS IMPOSSIBLE AS TALKING TO RUSSIA WITHOUT COMMUNISM. A FORMULA FOR PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA COULD EASILY BE FOUND, IF ONLY ISRAEL WERE INTERESTED. (E.G., ALL PARTIES COULD COME ON THE BASIS OF 242 EXCEPT THE PLO, WHO WOULD HAVE A SPECIAL INVITATION--AND THEIR PRESENCE AT GENEVA WOULD INDICATE TACIT ACCEPTANCE OF 242.) HOWEVER, ISRAEL IS NOT INTERESTED BECAUSE IT STILL HOPES THAT KING HUSSEIN WILL EVENTUALLY ACCEPT LESS THAN THE PLO WILL. "ALL OTHER REASONS ISRAEL PUTS FORTH FOR REJECTING THE PLO ARE SPURIOUS."

5. PELED HAS INFORMED PRIME MINISTER RABIN, FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON, AND SOME OTHER MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL'S SESSIONS WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES (THE ONLY NAME HE MENTIONED WAS THAT OF SARTAWI). THE ISRAELI LEADERS HAD LISTENED "IN THEIR CAPACITIES AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS" WITH POLITENESS AND CURIOSITY, EXCEPT FOR ALLON, WHO REJECTED OUT-OF-HAND THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES. GOVERN-

MENT OFFICIALS HAD BEEN EMBARRASSED WHEN WORD OF THEIR MEETINGS WITH PELED HAD LEAKED OUT. (PELED IMPLIED THAT THEY WOULD BE LESS WILLING TO MEET WITH HIM IN FUTURE).

6. PELED LEFT ISRAEL JANUARY 27 FOR PARIS "FOR A DAY OR SO, TO TRY AND GET THIS JIRYIS THING STRAIGHTENED OUT" (HE DESCRIBED AS NONSENSE A PRESS AGENCY REPORT OF HIS SAYING THAT THE ABU DAOUD AFFAIR HAD SPOILED PARIS AS A MEETING PLACE), AND WILL PROCEED TO THE U.S. FOR A MONTH'S STAY. HE WILL TAKE PART IN BOTH THE BREIRA AND QUAKER CONFERENCES (REFTEL).

7. COMMENT: AN EX-GENERAL IN THE IDF, PELED HAD AN EM-BATTLED ATTITUDE WHEN HE SUGGESTED THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA HAVE DELIBERATELY BURIED SOME STORIES ON THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES AND HAVE PLAYED UP OTHERS WHICH WERE UNFAVORABLE. ARGUING THAT A PALESTINIAN STATE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TEL AV 00651 271449Z

IS IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST, PELED SAID THAT SUCH A STATE WOULD BE A "CLASSIC BUFFER" AND ITS LEADERS WOULD DEFINITELY NOT WANT TO INVITE THE RUSSIANS IN ("THE WHOLE TREND IN THIS AREA IS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION"). THE GOI IS BEING SHORT-SIGHTED BY REFUSING TO MAKE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST GESTURE TOWARD PLO MODERATES, PELED MAINTAINED.

8. IT WAS EVIDENT FROM PELED'S REMARKS THAT HE FEARED HIS EFFORTS MIGHT SOON RUN AGROUND, SHOULD THE PLO MODERATES END UP WITH NOTHING BUT USELESS CONTACTS WITH THE COUNCIL. (GOI LEADERS HAD MET WITH SILENCE HIS SUGGESTION TO SEND A RETURN SIGNAL). HE SEEMED FULLY AWARE THAT ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION GENERALLY CONSIDERS THE COUNCIL A DUPE OF THE PLO. WHILE WE WOULD NOT GO THAT FAR, PELED'S EXPLANATION, FOR INSTANCE, THAT A DEMILITARIZED PLO STATE WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST IN RUSSIAN ASSISTANCE LEADS US TO THE CONCLUSION THAT HIS GROUP HAS AN OBVIOUSLY AMATEURISH FLAVOR TO IT. THIS, OF COURSE, IS ONLY ANOTHER REASON FOR THE GOI TO DISREGARD OR DOWNPLAY ITS ACTIVITIES.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE (A) BEING INFORMED OF DEPARTMENT'S DECISION RE ANY VISA APPLICATION BY JIRYIS, AND (B) A REPORT OF THE BREIRA AND QUAKER CONFERENCES. DUNNIGAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE GROUPS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV00651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770030-0639
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770110/aaaaajew.tel
Line Count: 162
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 10acb5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 455
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3479281
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE COUNCIL: PELED'S VIEWS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, IS, PLO, (PELED, MATTI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/10acb5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009